

(i) The vessel's Florida crawfish license or trap number or, if not licensed by Florida, the vessel's Federal vessel permit number must be permanently and conspicuously displayed horizontally on the uppermost structural portion of the vessel in numbers at least 10 inches (25.4 cm) high so as to be readily identifiable from the air and water;

(ii) If the vessel uses spiny lobster traps in the EEZ, other than off Florida—

(A) The vessel's color code, as assigned by Florida or, if a color code has not been assigned by Florida, as assigned by the Regional Director, must be permanently and conspicuously displayed above the number specified in paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section so as to be readily identifiable from the air and water, such color code being in the form of a circle at least 20 inches (50.8 cm) in diameter on a background of colors contrasting to those contained in the assigned color code;

(B) A buoy or timed-release buoy of such strength and buoyancy to float must be attached to each spiny lobster trap or at each end of a string of traps;

(C) A buoy used to mark spiny lobster traps must bear the vessel's assigned color code and be of such color, hue, and brilliancy as to be easily distinguished, seen, and located;

(D) A buoy used to mark spiny lobster traps must bear the vessel's Florida crawfish license or trap number or, if not licensed by Florida, the vessel's Federal vessel permit number in numbers at least 2 inches (5.08 cm) high; and

(E) A spiny lobster trap must bear the vessel's Florida crawfish license or trap number or, if not licensed by Florida, the vessel's Federal vessel permit number permanently and legibly affixed.

(2) A spiny lobster trap in the EEZ, other than off Florida, will be presumed to be the property of the most recently documented owner. Upon the sale or transfer of a spiny lobster trap used in the EEZ, other than off Florida, within 5 days of acquiring ownership, the person acquiring ownership must notify the Florida Division of Law Enforcement of the Department of Environmental Protection, for a trap

that bears a Florida crawfish license or trap number, or the Regional Director, for a trap that bears a Federal vessel permit number, as to the number of traps purchased, the vendor, and the crawfish license or trap number, or Federal vessel permit number, currently displayed on the traps, and must request issuance of a crawfish license or trap number, or Federal vessel permit, if the acquiring owner does not possess such license or trap number or permit.

(c) *Unmarked traps and buoys.* An unmarked spiny lobster trap or buoy in the EEZ is illegal gear. Such trap or buoy, and any connecting lines, will be considered unclaimed or abandoned property and may be disposed of in any manner considered appropriate by the Assistant Administrator or an authorized officer. An owner of such trap or buoy remains subject to appropriate civil penalties.

[57 FR 56519, Nov. 30, 1992, as amended at 59 FR 53119, Oct. 21, 1994; 60 FR 41830, Aug. 14, 1995]

§ 640.7 Prohibitions.

In addition to the general prohibitions specified in § 620.7 of this chapter, it is unlawful for any person to do any of the following:

(a) Sell, trade, or barter, or attempt to sell, trade, or barter, a spiny lobster in or from the EEZ without a required license, certificate, or permit, as specified in § 640.4(a)(1).

(b) Falsify information specified in § 640.4(b)(2) on an application for a permit.

(c) Fail to display a permit, as specified in § 640.4(h).

(d) Falsify or fail to display and maintain vessel and gear identification, as required by § 640.6 (a) and (b).

(e) Possess a spiny lobster trap in the EEZ at a time not authorized, as specified in § 640.20(b)(3)(i) and (b)(3)(ii).

(f) Possess a spiny lobster in or from the EEZ at a time not authorized, as specified in § 640.20(b)(4).

(g) Fail to return immediately to the water a berried spiny lobster or slipper lobster; strip eggs from or otherwise molest a berried spiny lobster or slipper lobster; or possess a spiny lobster or slipper lobster, or part thereof, from which eggs, swimmerettes, or pleopods

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have been removed or stripped; as specified in § 640.21(a).

(h) Possess or fail to return immediately to the water unharmed a spiny lobster smaller than the minimum size limits specified in § 640.21 (b)(1) and (b)(3), except as provided in § 640.21(c).

(i) Harvest or attempt to harvest a spiny lobster by diving without having and using in the water a measuring device, or fail to release an undersized spiny lobster in the water, as specified in § 640.21(b)(2).

(j) Possess an undersized spiny lobster for use as an attractant in a trap in quantities or under conditions not authorized in § 640.21(c).

(k) Possess a separated spiny lobster tail, except as specified in § 640.21(d).

(l) Possess a spiny lobster harvested by prohibited gear or methods; or possess on board a fishing vessel any dynamite or similar explosive substance; as specified in § 640.20(b) and § 640.22 (a)(1) and (a)(3).

(m) Use or possess in the EEZ a spiny lobster trap that does not meet the requirements specified in § 640.22(b)(1).

(n) Pull or tend a spiny lobster trap other than during daylight hours, as specified in § 640.22(b)(2).

(o) Pull or tend another person's spiny lobster trap, except as authorized in § 640.22(b)(3).

(p) Possess spiny lobsters in or from the EEZ in an amount exceeding the daily bag and possession limit specified in § 640.23 (a), (b)(1), or (b)(2) except as authorized in § 640.23(b)(3) and (b)(4).

(q) Possess spiny lobsters aboard a vessel that uses or has on board a net or trawl in an amount exceeding the limits, as specified in § 640.23(b)(4).

(r) Operate a vessel that fishes for or possesses spiny lobster in or from the EEZ with spiny lobster aboard in an amount exceeding the cumulative bag and possession limit, as specified in § 640.23(d).

(s) Transfer or receive at sea spiny lobster in or from the EEZ caught under the bag and possession limits, as specified in § 640.23(e).

(t) Interfere with, obstruct, delay, or prevent by any means an investigation, search, seizure, or disposition of seized property in connection with enforcement of the Magnuson Act.

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(u) Make any false statement, oral or written, to an authorized officer concerning the taking, catching, harvesting, landing, purchase, sale, possession, or transfer of a spiny lobster.

[57 FR 56520, Nov. 30, 1992, as amended at 58 FR 38979, July 21, 1993; 58 FR 61845, Nov. 23, 1993; 59 FR 53119, Oct. 21, 1994; 60 FR 41831, Aug. 14, 1995]

§ 640.8 Facilitation of enforcement.

See § 620.8 of this chapter.

[53 FR 24656, June 29, 1988]

§ 640.9 Penalties.

See § 620.9 of this chapter.

[53 FR 24656, June 29, 1988]

Subpart B—Management Measures

SOURCE: 57 FR 56520, Nov. 30, 1992, unless otherwise noted.

§ 640.20 Seasons.

(a) *EEZ off the southern Atlantic states, other than Florida.* In the EEZ off the southern Atlantic states, other than Florida, there are no seasonal restrictions on the harvest of spiny lobster or on the possession of traps.

(b) *EEZ off Florida and off the Gulf states, other than Florida*—(1) *Commercial and recreational fishing season.* The commercial and recreational fishing season for spiny lobster in the EEZ off Florida and the EEZ off the Gulf states, other than Florida, begins on August 6 and ends on March 31.

(2) *Special recreational fishing seasons*—(i) *EEZ off Florida.* There is a 2-day special recreational fishing season in the EEZ off Florida on the last Wednesday and successive Thursday of July each year during which fishing for spiny lobster is limited to diving or use of a bully net or hoop net. (See § 640.22(a) for general prohibitions on gear and methods.) In the EEZ off Monroe County, Florida, no person may harvest spiny lobster by diving at night, that is, from 1 hour after official sunset to 1 hour before official sunrise, during this 2-day special recreational fishing season.